

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENING 00832 202239Z

62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 VO-03 SCA-01

DRC-01 /099 W

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R 200850Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0186

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0 8 3 2

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SOCI

SUBJ: NOTES ON JEWISH ACTIVITIES IN LENINGRAD, USSR

1. A JEWISH VISA APPLICANT WHO CLAIMS TO BE INVOLVED IN LOCAL JEWISH AFFAIRS IN LENINGRAD, USSR, STATED TO CONSULAR OFFICER ON DECEMBER 14, 1973, THAT SHE WAS ONE OF 25 JEWS IN LENINGRAD WHO HAVE SIGNED PETITION SUPPORTING SIX LOCAL JEWS WHO WERE ARRESTED IN NOVEMBER FOR DEMONSTRATING FOR THERE RIGHT TO EMIGRATE TO ISREAL. SHE CLAIMED THIS WAS FIRST SUCH DEMONSTRATION IN LENINGRAD. SHE ADDED THAT THOSE WHO SIGNED PETITION ARE CERTAIN THEY WILL BE PERSECUTED FOR THEIR ACTIONS BY LOSING THEIR JOBS, APARTMENTS, ETC.

2. ON OTHER HAND, SAME SOURCE ALSO STATED SHE HAS HEARD MANY RUMORS THAT ON JANUARY 1, 1974, OVIR WILL CHANGE ITS REQUIREMENTS FOR MAKING APPLICATION TO EMIGRATE FROM SOVIET UNION. PROCEDURES REPORTEDLY WILL BE SIMPLIFIED AND MORE PERSONS WILL RECEIVE PERMISSION. SHE QUALIFIED HER STATEMENTS BY SAYING THAT RUMORS WERE CIRCULTATING EVERYWHERE, BUT SHE DID NOT REALLY BELIEVE THEM. THIS CHANGE IN OVIR PROCEDURES REPORTEDLY WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY CHANGE IN OVIR STAFF.

3. SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT OFFICIAL REFUSAL TO ALLOW VALERIY PANOV, FORMER KIROV DANCER, TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL FROM SOVIET

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UNION IS BASED ON TWO TECHNICALITIES. FIRST, PANOV'S CURRENT PASSPORT

LISTS HIS NATIONALITY AS "RUSSIAN" RATHER THAN "JEWISH".
THIS HAS BEEN USED AS A BASIS FOR JUSTIFYING OFFICIAL REFUSAL
BECAUSE ONLY JEWS ARE PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL. SECONDLY,
PANOV'S WIFE'S MOTHER HAS REPEATEDLY REFUSED TO GIVE HER PERMISSION
TO HER DAUGHTER TO EMIGRATE FROM SOVIET UNION. ACCORDING TO
SOURCE, PANOV HAS APPLIED FOR NEW PASSPORT WHICH WILL LIST
HIS NATIONALITY AS "JEWIS".
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